

MEETING NOTES



Community Inclusion & Wellbeing Reference Group

Date	12 February 2024	Time	11am
Venue	Wang Wauk Room Forster Civic Centre	Note-taker	Lyndie Hepple
Present	Margaret Guider, Tim Larritt, Craig Partridge, Alex Mills, Lyndie Hepple, Janine Friedrich		
Apologies	Cr Katheryn Smith, Cr Claire Pontin, Felicity Carter, Gemma Green; Mydie Keegan, Anna Burley, Christopher Rowsell, Cr Dheera Smith		

Meeting Items

Item	Key points/actions
1	Acknowledgement of Country, Alex Mills
	Note that there was no quorum for this meeting. The meeting progressed for general discussion only. No recommendations were able to be made.
2	<p><u>Aboriginal Action Plan</u></p> <p>The Aboriginal Action Plan has been adopted. Consultation with the Aboriginal community identified the need for a local voice in decisions that affect that community, and at the last Council meeting 9 members were approved for the Aboriginal Reference Group – a key action from the Aboriginal Action Plan. Eighteen submissions for membership to the Reference Group were received and nine were approved, ensuring a spread geographically, and across age and gender. There are also 4 spots available for representatives from Local Aboriginal Land Councils, and 4 spots for local Aboriginal Working Groups which are community groups. The first meeting of the Reference Group is scheduled for early March. All Councillors are receiving Cultural awareness training. Planning is progressing to roll out training to all staff.</p> <p>Council is also convening an internal Aboriginal Reference Group comprising Aboriginal employees to provide support to Aboriginal employees, and an opportunity to engage and share.</p>
3	<p><u>MCC Cultural Services changes</u></p> <p>The link between the Community Inclusion & Wellbeing Reference Group is obvious through the Aboriginal Action Plan, but not so obvious with the Cultural Strategy. In</p>

	<p>recent years there has not been a lot of sector development in our region, and arts are not accessible.</p> <p>Council recently decided to cease membership of Arts Mid North Coast, as MidCoast was the bottom end of the service area, and local artists were not receiving the support expected. The \$15,000 membership fee has been allocated to an annual local arts grant program. Council is currently advertising for a full-time cultural development officer.</p> <p>Council is currently considering how the Manning Entertainment Centre (MEC), Manning Regional Art Gallery and Libraries can assist in the delivery of cultural services.</p> <p>The Cultural Plan is included with these meeting notes.</p>
4	<p><u>Update – current funding opportunities.</u></p> <p>The NAIDOC funding round is currently open and closes on 3 March 2024. Up to \$4,000 can be applied for, for NAIDOC Week activities. Conditions of the funding are that the events must be planned by a NAIDOC Planning Committee, and the Committee must meet with Council 3 months prior to NAIDOC Week to determine whether any licences or permissions will be required so that applications are made in a timely manner. Funding will be available at the end of April.</p> <p>The Duralie Community Fund is the result of contributions from the Duralie Mine near Stroud, which was a condition of consent for the mine’s operation. While the mine has closed, there remains a small balance in the Community Fund. The funding round opens on 12 February and closes on 24 March. Community groups in the immediate vicinity of the mine are eligible to apply – more information is available on the Council website. Up to \$10,000 can be applied for, and this is likely to be the final funding round before the fund is expended.</p> <p>The Community Donations funding round (under the Community Donations Policy) opens on 26 February and closes on 7 April. Community groups can apply for up to \$2,000 under the Annual Donations category for capacity-building projects, or up to \$10,000 for larger projects that are innovative or new, that typically take more than 12 months to implement. Please check Council’s website for more information. It’s important to read the Policy (also available on the Website) for detail on eligibility and exclusions.</p> <p>Applications for all three funding rounds are available on Council’s website.</p>

5	<p><u>Pre-Event Disaster Plan</u></p> <p>Janine Friedrich is Council's Community Recovery Officer. Her role is funded by the Reconstruction Authority resulting from the significant March 2020-21 floods. The funding ends in June 2020 and Janine will finish up then unless funding is extended. There are several deliverables for the role, for example – getting out into the community to build connections and build capacity and establishing a community resilience network.</p> <p>A Pre-Event Disaster Recovery Plan (the Plan) is another outcome. Janine provided information on the Draft Plan and sought input and feedback from the group. The Plan does not cover what emergency services do which is legislated and responds to a disaster. Instead, it details what we can put in place to help communities recover more quickly. It will be up to emergency services to activate the plan if a formal recovery process is needed. In other scenarios, the Community Resilience Network may activate informal arrangements after smaller emergencies.</p> <p>The Draft Plan is primarily written for bushfires and floods which are the two most likely disasters to affect the MidCoast, but would still be relevant in the event of a different disaster, e.g. another pandemic, bridge collapse, etc.</p> <p>A lot of what's in the Plan is that Council will assist in the establishment of services (impact on businesses, waste disposal, bringing tourists back, etc). What's relevant to this group is what's not legislated. The Community Resilience Network is one of the action items. Items must be supportable long-term without the need for a Council Officer to implement them, for example setting up a recovery centre. The Plan is more about short term actions, with a suggested recovery action plan template to be instigated instances where longer term recovery support is needed.</p> <p>Janine was interested to know from members what issues they had encountered in the longer-term recovery phase of recent disasters in the MidCoast.</p> <p>Members spoke about supply of transitional housing for people who are displaced by a disaster. A Housing taskforce might help. Other challenges were also noted by Janine, for example, access to mental health services.</p> <p>Janine also provided some context to disaster response. For example, a sudden impact weather event causing \$225,000 damage to a Council asset will prompt a Natural Disaster Declaration by the Federal Government which triggers financial relief to those affected. If there is no significant damage to Council assets but significant other damage in the community (eg residents lose homes to fire), then a case needs to be made for a Natural Disaster Declaration.</p> <p>A copy of the Draft Pre-Event Disaster Plan is included with these notes.</p>
6	<p><u>Elands</u></p> <p>A letter from the Manning Suicide Prevention Network was tabled for discussion and will be carried over to the next meeting for discussion given there is no quorum.</p>

7	<p><u>Wingham Women's Space</u></p> <p>A letter from the Manning Valley Neighbourhood Centre – Women Kind Collective was tabled for discussion. The group is looking for space from which to conduct its activities, or promotion of activities. The current funding ends in March. Council has already been approached but has – no suitable facilities. CWA is willing to rent a room for \$500/week which is unaffordable.</p> <p>This item will be carried over to next meeting for discussion when a quorum is present.</p>
8	<p><u>Other Business</u></p> <p>Tim Larritt praised Council for its role in the Clean-up Bushland project. The project was a partnership of the BEAT project including partners Home in Place, Council, and others. A snapshot of the amount of rubbish removed from the estate is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80 cubic meters of rubbish loaded into skip bins • 14 x 3 tonne tip truckloads (mostly metal to recycling) • 2 x 12 tonne truckloads • 16 trailer loads • 42 mattresses • 38 tyres • 26 fridges/washing machines removed • 3 trailers • 1 camper shell • 18 hours of bobcat use <p>Streets were swept, weeds removed, and a general tidy up conducted. The project has been very well received by the community, and a slight reduction in anti-social behaviour has been noticed.</p>
8	<p><u>Tour of FCC facility</u></p> <p>Members who had not yet visited the Forster Civic Centre were taken on a tour by Alex Mills.</p>

Next meeting

Date	Monday 6 May 2024	Time	11am
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Venue	Barrington Room, Yalawanyi Ganya	Note-taker	Lyndie Hepple
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Members are reminded that 2024 meeting dates are:

Monday 6 May 2024

Monday 5 August 2024

Monda 4 November 2024